

What is claimed is:

1. An uninterruptible power supply manager for managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems coupled to the Internet, the uninterruptible power supply manager comprising:
 - a communication port for communicating over the Internet with the uninterruptible power supply systems and a plurality of user computers;
 - wherein the uninterruptible power supply manager computer is constructed and arranged to obtain inventory and status information from each uninterruptible power supply system over the Internet and to provide at least a subset of the inventory and status information to at least one of the user computers over the Internet.
2. The uninterruptible power supply manager of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a storage medium;
 - a database defined on the storage medium, the database containing the inventory and status information; and
 - an inventory engine, the inventory engine configuring and arranging the inventory and status information into a number of reports.
3. A method of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems, the uninterruptible power supply systems being coupled to an uninterruptible power supply manager computer via a computer network, the manager computer being further coupled to a number of user computers, the method of managing the number of uninterruptible power supply systems comprising the steps of:
 - establishing a communication link between one or more of the user computers and the manager computer;
 - requesting the manager computer to provide the user computer with an uninterruptible power supply system status Web-page and main menu;
 - entering a number of internet-protocol addresses in predetermined address fields, each of the internet-protocol addresses being associated with one of the uninterruptible power supply systems;

requesting the manager computer to provide inventory and status information related to each uninterruptible power supply system associated with each internet-protocol address; and

5 storing the inventory and status information in a database defined on the manager computer.

4. The method of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of claim 3, further comprising the step of configuring and arranging the inventory and status information defined in the database to provide a number of reports.

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5. The method of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of claim 3, wherein the step of entering a number of internet-protocol addresses in predetermined address fields comprises entering a single internet-protocol address in the predetermined address field.

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6. The method of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of claim 3, wherein the step of entering a number of internet-protocol addresses in predetermined address fields, comprises:

20 defining a range of contiguous internet-protocol addresses, the range having a starting internet-protocol address and an ending internet-protocol address; and

entering the starting internet-protocol address and the ending internet-protocol address in predetermined address fields, the range of internet-protocol addresses being associated with the number of uninterruptible power supply systems.

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7. The method of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of claim 3, wherein the step of entering a number of internet-protocol address in predetermined address fields, comprises:

30 searching for a number internet protocol addresses associated with uninterruptible power supply systems coupled to the computer manager, wherein searching for the number internet protocol addresses comprises:

- (i) entering a partial internet-protocol address in a predetermined address field;
- (ii) strobing the uninterruptible power supply systems associated with the partial internet-protocol address to determine internet-protocol addresses associated with each uninterruptible power supply system; and

(iii) storing the internet-protocol addresses associated with each uninterruptible power supply system.

8. The method of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of
5 claim 3, further comprising the step of updating the inventory and status information defined
in the database.

9. The method of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of
claim 3, further comprising the step of updating the inventory and status information defined
10 in the database based on a predetermined cyclic schedule.

10. The method of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of
claim 3, wherein the number of reports include inventory reports.

15 11. The method of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of
claim 3, wherein the number of reports include battery status reports.

12. A system for managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems via
an internet-based computer network system, the system for managing the uninterruptible
20 power supply systems comprising:

means for responding to a request from a user computer to provide an uninterruptible
power supply system status;

means for receiving a number of internet-protocol addresses from the user computer,
the internet-protocol addresses being associated with the number of uninterruptible power
25 supply systems;

means for providing inventory and status information to one of the user computers,
the inventory and status information being related to each uninterruptible power supply
system; and

means for storing the inventory and status information in a database defined on the
30 system.

13. The system for managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of
claim 12, further comprising means for configuring and arranging the inventory and status
information defined in the database to provide a number of reports.

14. The system of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of
claim 12, wherein the means for entering a number of internet-protocol addresses in
predetermined address fields comprises entering a single internet-protocol address in the
5 predetermined address field.

15. The system of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of
claim 12, wherein the means for entering a number of internet-protocol addresses in
predetermined address fields, comprises:

10 means for defining a range of contiguous internet protocol addresses, the range having
a starting internet-protocol address and an ending internet-protocol address; and
means for entering the starting internet-protocol address and the ending internet-
protocol address in predetermined address fields, the range of internet-protocol addresses
being associated with the number of uninterruptible power supply systems.

15 16. The system of managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of
claim 12, wherein the means for entering a number of internet-protocol addresses in
predetermined address fields, comprises:

20 means for searching a number internet protocol addresses associated with
uninterruptible power supply systems coupled to the computer manager, wherein the means
for searching the number internet protocol addresses includes:

25 (i) means for entering a partial internet-protocol address in a predetermined
address field;

(ii) means for strobing the uninterruptible power supply systems associated
with the partial internet-protocol address to determine internet-protocol addresses
associated with each uninterruptible power supply system; and

(iii) means for storing the internet-protocol addresses associated with each
uninterruptible power supply system.

30 17. The system for managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of
claim 3, further comprising a means for updating the inventory and status information defined
in the database.

18. The system for managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of claim 12, further comprising a means for updating the inventory and status information defined in the database based on a predetermined cyclic schedule.

5 19. The system for managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of claim 12, wherein the number of reports include inventory reports.

20. The system for managing a number of uninterruptible power supply systems of claim 12, wherein the number of reports include battery status reports.

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